



# THE MILITARY COALITION

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03-133

January 25, 2005

RECEIVED

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

MAR 11 2005

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Dear Chairman Powell:

The Military Coalition (TMC), a consortium of nationally prominent military and veterans organizations, representing more than 5.5 million members plus their families and survivors, is writing to express concern over a pending FCC ruling (Docket 03-133) which could result in higher charges and access fees for pre-paid calling cards. We believe this action would have a decidedly negative impact on our servicemembers and their families.

An estimated 95% of deployed servicemembers use pre-paid calling cards to keep in touch with their families. Raising these costs by a reported 20% during a time of war would create a significant financial burden, and sends the wrong signal to our troops in the field. Servicemembers depend on this affordable means of communication to maintain a link with home. Raising costs would have an adverse effect on morale and could not come at a worse time.

We urge your consideration in denying any increase in calling card user fees while thousands of troops remain deployed overseas in the war on terror.

Sincerely,

The Military Coalition  
(Signatures Enclosed)

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